



## **Meet Gabriela Barbosa, an International Human Rights MA student with a passion for Latin America.**

**Tell us a bit about yourself:** I was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and I went to Marquette University for Criminology and Law Studies. I come from a legal background, as I worked in a corporate law firm for four years. I am a native speaker in Spanish, and am proficient in Portuguese, and I have always been involved in Latin student organizations; in college, I also became involved in LGBT groups.

**What brought you to the Josef Korbel School?** I liked that there was a more hands-on feel here, from the emphasis on internships to having the necessary skills set. I also appreciated that [the school] kept me informed throughout the steps and abreast of the application process. I didn't even hear from some other schools until I was here, so I was glad to know [the Josef Korbel School] was interested in me.

**Why are you pursuing a regional focus in Latin America?** My personal culture contributes to a genuine fascination with the region, and my language skills help me connect on a deeper level. All my papers have been on a Latin American country, and I'm very interested in the social, political and economic issues. I'm hoping to do a doctoral program down the road, so I'm currently working on a thesis concerning militarization in Mexico. Working or traveling in Latin America would be ideal.

**How would you evaluate the Latin American studies program at the Josef Korbel School?** [Professor Lynn Holland](#) has really been my hero. Her expertise is in exactly what I want to be learning, and she makes students really committed. Now, more classes on [Latin America](#) are being offered and the regional focus should really be emphasized. As a first year, it felt like Latin America was the one that was left behind, but we're now tailoring it more, hiring new professors, and so on. In general, a regional interest, in a lot of ways, is the way to go about it here. Everyone's committed, and they are doing research projects and providing more opportunities in the field. I think it looks promising.

**What are some of the major issues in Latin America that currently interest you?** Firstly, U.S.-Mexico relations along the border, which also involves drug trafficking, etc. There's also Hugo Chavez from Venezuela and the role he's playing in Leftist movements. Finally, I think the importance of Evo Morales as the first indigenous president in Bolivia, and what he's doing with coca are some of the main points of interest.

**What other projects are you involved in?** I am interning as a legislative advocacy intern specializing in Latin America for the Denver Justice and Peace Committee. I will be contacting senators and

representatives personally—it's all non-violent activism, and it supplements what I am learning here. I also worked for Together With the Children, a Denver organization with a sister community in Mexico. They run a learning fund; it was challenging, but fun.

**Who's your favorite Latin American singer?** Carlos Santana. I like his music a lot.

For more information about our MA program in International Human Rights, click [here](#).

For more information about our Inter-American regional emphasis, click [here](#).

***Nirvana Bhatia, Master's candidate International Human Rights,  
Josef Korbel School of International Studies***